

For Immediate Release
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SENATE DEMS OUTRAGED BY SECRETARY OF STATE FLYER

Senators Schauer, Brater call on Secretary Land to end confusion

LANSING- Standing on the steps of the Capitol, Senate Democrats called on Secretary of State Terri Lynn Land to publicly retract a flyer being distributed at branch offices around the state which appears to tell new voter registrants that they are not eligible to vote in this November's election. Led by Senators Mark Schauer (D-Calhoun, Jackson Counties) and Liz Brater (D-Ann Arbor), the elected leaders further demanded that the Secretary of State's office contact anyone who received the flyer to clear up any confusion created.

"Encouraging participation in our democracy is a basic responsibility of the Secretary of State," said Schauer. "This flyer is either intended to suppress voter turnout or a serious mistake. Whatever the reason, Secretary Land must step forward to help those who may have been confused by it."

Schauer first became aware of the flyer when his office was contacted by a frustrated constituent. After a staff member had a conversation with the Secretary of State's legislative liaison, it became clear that they were aware that this flyer was being distributed and did not intend to publicly address the misinformation.

"Every person who has registered to vote in recent days and received this flyer needs to know that they are eligible to vote," said Brater. "Secretary Land and her staff have an obligation to contact them and ensure that they are aware of their rights."

Today's press conference comes on the heels of a series of events held around the state to encourage college students to participate in this fall's election despite state laws which make it difficult. Brater and Senators Virg Bernero (D-Lansing) and Deb Cherry (D-Burton) talked with students at Michigan State University, the University of Michigan and Eastern Michigan University about proposed legislation that would make participating in elections while in college easier.

The deadline to register to vote in this year's election is October 4th.

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